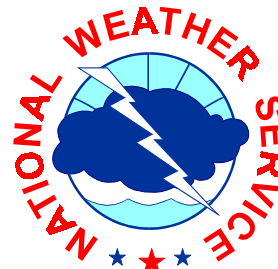


**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



OCTOBER 8, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Gold Medal Winners Andrew Justis and Donald King Receive Awards:

(L to R) Andrew Justis and Donald King, electronic technicians for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Flagstaff, Arizona, proudly display the Department of Commerce



Gold Medals they were awarded during ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. on September 24. They received the Department of Commerce's highest award for their heroism. They took immediate action to save the life of an unidentified man from Phoenix who was thrown from his all terrain vehicle and injured during an accident in the Coconino National Forest on November 23, 2001.

StormReady Status for Medford, Oregon: On October 3, 2002, the City of Medford, Oregon was recognized as StormReady today during the noon meeting of the Medford City Council. National Weather Service representatives MIC Roger Williams and WCM James Reynolds presented a StormReady Certificate of Accomplishment as well as a StormReady road sign to the City of Medford. James presented Wayne Pace, Operations Superintendent for the City of Medford, with a letter of recognition along with a StormReady road sign. Roger then provided an interview with local channel 12 and James gave an interview to local channel 5.

(Left to Right) Roger Williams, MIC WFO Medford, James Reynolds, WCM WFO Medford, and Wayne Pace, Operations Superintendent for the City of Medford, and the StormReady road signs.



Regional Labor Council Meeting: On October 3, the Western Region Regional Labor Council (RLC) held a bi-annual meeting at Western Region Headquarters. NWSEO Regional Chair, Eugene VanCor, along with union members Robert Barifaldi and Jeanne Allen, met with Deputy Regional Director Jim Campbell, Administrative Management Division Chief Jean Okumura, and Meteorological Services Division Chief Rich Douglas. Topics included a review of WFO staffing, and as discussion regarding recent GS-12 promotion panels in which there have been a limited number of applicants. The meeting was very cordial and productive.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Four Western Region Offices win Bronze Medals: Congratulations to WFO Salt Lake, the NWRFC Portland, WFO Phoenix, and WFO Billings. Each of the offices won an Organizational Bronze Medal. Salt Lake's Bronze was for their excellent support to the partnership in providing weather information and forecasts during the 2002 Winter Olympics. The Northwest RFC was awarded their medal for the implementation of the NWS River Forecast System in the Columbia River Basin. WFO Phoenix received their award for developing a partnership with the private sector to collect critical data to improve weather forecasts with wide-ranging economic benefits. WFO Billings obtained their award for providing life-saving warnings and enhanced public service during the prolonged severe weather episode in the summer of 2001.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is a follow-up statement to an existing flash flood watch written by Eric Pytlak of WFO Tucson. It is important to provide up-to-date information on the status of weather events, watches, warnings and the like to keep the public informed. Eric did a great job in doing just that!

.WGUS85 KTWC 072133
FLSTWC
AZZ019-030-035-072300-

FLOOD STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TUCSON AZ
235 PM MST MON OCT 7 2002

...URBAN AND SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY FOR SOUTHERN GRAHAM...
SOUTHERN GREENLEE...AND NORTHEAST COCHISE COUNTIES UNTIL 4 PM...
...FLASH FLOOD WATCH FOR GRAHAM...GREENLEE...AND COCHISE COUNTIES
UNTIL MIDNIGHT...

AT 230 PM...THUNDERSTORMS WERE ONCE AGAIN ON THE INCREASE OVER
COCHISE COUNTY AND WERE MOVING NORTH TOWARD GRAHAM AND GREENLEE
COUNTIES. ALTHOUGH THE STORMS WERE MOVING NORTH AT 20 MPH...THEY
WERE MOVING INTO AREAS THAT RECEIVED BETWEEN 1 AND 3.5 INCHES OF RAIN
EARLIER TODAY. OTHER THUNDERSTORMS HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN SIERRA

VISTA AND NOGALES AND WERE MOVING MUCH MORE SLOWLY THAN THE STORMS OVER COCHISE COUNTY. THESE WILL BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING UP TO AN INCH OF RAIN IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME...ALONG WITH SOME HAIL.

THE GREENLEE COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT REPORTED MINOR FLOODING IN WARDS CANYON NEAR CLIFTON. WITH MORE THUNDERSTORMS HEADING INTO THE AREA...THE RISK OF LIFE-THREATENING FLASH FLOODING WILL REMAIN HIGH THIS EVENING ACROSS ALL OF THE WATCH AREA. HEAVY RAIN IS ALSO FALLING OVER MOST OF THE UPPER GILA AND SAN FRANCISCO RIVER BASINS...WHICH MEANS SIGNIFICANT WITHIN-BANK RISES ARE LIKELY ON BOTH RIVER SYSTEMS TONIGHT.

DO NOT DRIVE INTO FLOODED AREAS AND USE EXTREME CAUTION NEAR WASHES AND SMALL STREAMS.

PYTLAK

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Cold Region Hydrology Workshop: A workshop on cold region hydrology is planned at the NWS Training Center November 5-8, 2002. The workshop will cover such topics as river ice formation and prediction, ice jamming, data issues, snowmelt modeling, and local office issues. Western Region will be represented at the meeting by a number of service hydrologist and RFC personnel.

A 2002 Cold Regions Workshop Web page has been established. To access this page, go to the North Central River Forecast Center's home page:

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ncrfc/html_graphics/index.html

A link to the Cold Regions Workshop is located under "Top News of the Day" at the top of the page. Several informational links are on the Workshop home page.

CPC to Provide El Nino Briefings to Local WR offices: CPC will be providing a variety of support for the local offices in WR during October and November. CPC will send Wayne Higgins to speak in Seattle, October 10 and 11, in support of WFO Seattle's fall briefing for the media and customers. John Janowiak will speak in Sacramento on November 8, 2002, in support of a joint WFO Sacramento and WFO Monterey fall briefing. CPC will also provide a briefing for all WR offices via a teleconference call. The teleconference call will be offered twice, November 6, 2002 at 1:00p.m. MST, and again on November 13, 2002 at 9:30a.m. MST. A CPC forecaster will provide the briefing while participants view slides from the Internet, and then CPC will answer questions from the participants. This teleconference briefing was set up for the Climate Focal Points, but others who are interested are welcome. The offices should specify which session they prefer, and RSVP. to Andrea Bair by October 18, 2002.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

2km ADAS Going Out to WR Offices in Preparation for the IFPS Feedback: Kirby Cook (WR/SSD) has set up the WR WAN to distribute the 2km ADAS for ingest into AWIPS and the GFE. The 2KM ADAS is available every hour (unlike the ADAS10 which is available every 15 minutes) which contains temperature, wind, dewpoint, pressure, water vapor mixing ratio, and topography.

Initial GFE Gridded Feedback: Kirby Cook (WR/SSD) has distributed the initial GFE Gridded Verification software to each office. This software uses ADAS, which includes the 3,200 additional MesoWest observations, as the basis for the analysis (ground truth). The initial effort will focus on max/min temperatures and will gradually expand over time to include additional forecast elements. The code consists of three procedures and four SmartTools.

Winter Training with COMET Training: As a reminder, there are lots of good winter weather related training available from COMET. The list below is a sample. For a complete listing, visit COMET's MetEd new Winter Weather Training Web page.

Self-Paced Training:

Cold Air Damming - Part of the Navy's Mesoscale Primer Series, but with good information for all forecasters.

Slantwise Convection - An Operational Approach - This module, which is part of the Northern Latitude Meteorology Web site, provides a good overview of CSI and slantwise convection.

Winter Weather Refresher PowerPoint Presentation - Stephen Jascourt and Bill Bua summarize winter weather information from an NWP perspective. Also view these other topics in the NWP series:

AVN/MRF Microphysics
Eta Microphysics
RUC Microphysics

Looking for a Case Study?

1. Initial Conditions and SREF Forecasts for the 6-7 January 2002 Northeast US Snowstorm; When Good Models Go Bad
2. WES (Weather Event Simulator) cases (available via email request at wes_orders@comet.ucar.edu)
 - * 24 January 2000, East Coast Explosive Cyclogenesis
 - * 09 November 1998, Winter Severe Weather

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

AWIPS/ORPG: As of October 1, 2002, WSR-88D Archive Level III products are being transmitted to the Radar Product Central Collection/Distribution Service (RPCCDS) via the AWIPS WAN at all but one site in Western Region (four total in the NWS). After the remaining four WFOs begin transmitting Level III products to the RPCCDS, sites will receive instructions to discontinue shipping Jaz disks to the NCDC.

AWIPS Linux CPs: All Western Region offices are scheduled to complete installation of the new AWIPS Linux Communications Processors by the end of October 2002.

NWSNet: Western Region joined the NWSNet October 1, 2002. This transition completed phase 1a of the NWSNet plan. The goal of phase 1a was to aggregate regional T-1 links to create an NWS communications backbone. Phase 1b, which is still in the planning stage, will implement a meshed (multiple path) topology to improve availability.

Dayton USDA NWR Installation: NWR Regional Maintenance Specialist (RMS) Joe Lachacz traveled to WFO Pendleton, OR., to assist with the installation of a new USDA-funded NWR transmitter.

Oakland Upper Air System and Facility Relocation: Upper Air RMS Jack Lauritzen traveled to WFO Sacramento, CA., to assist the Facilities Team and the WFO Sacramento technician team with relocating the upper air radiosonde tracking system to a new facility. After working through several unexpected problems, the relocation team got the system up and running. Overall, the move went fairly smoothly with everyone pitching in to get the job done. New target antennas, VHF antennas, RSOIS equipment, a target oscillator and plenty of cable and connections were successfully installed. Great job of teamwork!